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**STIC Database Tracking Number: 107708**

**To: Thomas Price**  
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**Wednesday, August 03, 2005**


**Case Serial Number: 10/772177**

**From: Etelka R. Griffin**  
**Location: EIC 3600**  
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## **Search Notes**

**LITIGATION-6676502**

Source: [Legal](#) > [Area of Law - By Topic](#) > [Patent Law](#) > [Patents](#) > [U.S. Patents](#) > [Utility, Design and Plant Patents](#)   
Terms: **patno=6676502** ([Edit Search](#))

160931 (10) 6676502 January 13, 2004

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE GRANTED PATENT

**6676502**

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January 13, 2004

Method and means for stuffing natural casings with sausage emulsion

**APPL-NO:** 160931 (10)

**FILED-DATE:** May 31, 2002

**GRANTED-DATE:** January 13, 2004

**CORE TERMS:** sleeve, casing, tube, stuffing, emulsion, meat, flange, sausage, slidably, annular ...

**ENGLISH-ABST:**

A method and structure of stuffing natural casings with sausage material involves taking a plurality of natural casings of different lengths and diameters; pre-loading each of the casings on elongated hollow open ended sleeves shorter than the casings and having a diameter less than the casings by telescoping the casings on the outer surfaces of the sleeves, slidably mounting the sleeves on the open end of a meat stuffing tube of a sausage encasing machine; extruding meat emulsion through the stuffing tube into the casing mounted on the sleeve until the sleeve is slidably removed from the tube, removing the sleeve from the stuffing tube, repeating the use of the sleeve by preloading the sleeve with another natural casing.

**SUMMARY:**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Stuffing sausages with meat emulsion normally involves pumping meat emulsion through a hollow tube or sleeve towards a discharge end of the sleeve. A hollow tubular casing material is slidably mounted on the outside of the sleeve with an otherwise open end extending just beyond the discharge end of the sleeve. The open end of the casing is then closed in any convenient manner. The meat emulsion extruded out of the sleeve enters the casing which becomes filled with the pressure on the pumped meat emulsion slidably moving the casing off of the sleeve. The filled casing is then formed into links through conventional means. This process works well with artificial casings which can be shirred or telescopically compressed so

that a casing thirty feet or so in length can be compressed into a shirred condition of slightly more than a foot in length, thus allowing many sausages to be made before a new shirred casing is placed on the sleeve.

However, in the case of natural casings comprised of the intestines of certain animals, the sausage making process is substantially slowed because the natural casings vary in length and are substantially shorter than artificial casings. As a result, the natural casings have to be replaced at a high frequency, thus creating substantial down time for the machine.

It is therefore a principal object of this invention to provide a method and means for stuffing natural casings with sausage emulsion which will greatly accelerate the stuffing of natural casings by preloading the casings on a quickly positioned auxiliary sleeve so that the natural casing on the preloaded sleeve can be instantly placed on the primary stuffing tube without manually inserting the natural casing over the end of the stuffing tube.

A further object of this invention is to provide a convenient arrangement for retaining the sleeve to the stuffing tube as the sleeve is placed on the tube.


A still further object of this invention is to provide a convenient arrangement for the sleeve to be automatically removed from the stuffing tube after the natural casing has been filled with meat emulsion upon leaving the outer surface of the sleeve.

These and other objects will be apparent to those skilled in the art.  
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method of stuffing natural casings with sausage material involves taking a plurality of natural casings of different lengths and diameters; pre-loading each of the casings on elongated hollow open ended sleeves shorter than the casings and having a diameter less than the casings by telescoping the casings on the outer surfaces of the sleeves, and tying an open end of the casings over the open ends of the sleeves; slidably mounting the sleeves on the open end of a meat stuffing tube of a sausage encasing machine; extruding meat emulsion through the stuffing tube into the casing mounted on the sleeve until the sleeve is slidably removed from the tube caused in part by the movement of meat emulsion entering the casing; removing the sleeve from the stuffing tube, repeating the use of the sleeve by preloading the sleeve with another natural casing; and sequentially filling the casings on the preloaded sleeves with meat emulsion in accordance with the foregoing steps.

A natural casing sausage making machine has a frame, a meat emulsion pump, and a hollow stuffing tube connected to the pump and having a discharge end. A hollow open-ended sleeve is slidably mounted on the stuffing tube and has a discharge end registering with the discharge end of the stuffing tube. The sleeve is preloaded with a length of natural casing, which extends over at least a portion of the length of the sleeve. A radial flange on the end of the sleeve opposite the discharge end thereof abuts a radial flange or other stop element on the stuffing tube to automatically insure that the discharge end of the sleeve and tube register with each other. A detent element, preferably an annular radial groove in the stuffing tube can receive a registering annular rib on the inner diameter of the sleeve to yieldingly hold the sleeve in place in the time.

After the preloaded sleeve is in place on the stuffing tube, the tube is conventionally moved longitudinally forwardly towards a twisting and linking mechanism. When the casing is filled, the tube with the sleeve thereon is longitudinally moved away from the twisting and linking mechanism. A means for withdrawing the stuffing tube from the sleeve, such as a pivotal brake element is moved into the reverse longitudinal path of the radial flange of the sleeve to prevent it from moving rearwardly, whereupon the tube slidably withdraws from inside the sleeve, and the sleeve automatically drops to a suitable container for reuse without having to be handled by the machine operator.

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Terms: **patno=6676502** ([Edit Search](#))

View: **Custom**

Segments: Abst, Appl-no, Summary

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 3, 2005 - 2:39 PM EDT

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**Patent Number :**

US2003224713 A1 20031204 [US20030224713]

**Patent Number 2 :**

US6676502 B2 20040113 [US6676502]

**Title :**

(A1) METHOD AND MEANS FOR STUFFING NATURAL CASINGS WITH SAUSAGE EMULSION

**Patent Assignee :**

(A1) TOWNSEND ENGINEERING CO (US)

**Patent Assignee :**

Townsend Engineering Company, Des Moines IA [US]

**Patent Assignee 2 :**

(B2) TOWNSEND ENGINEERING CO (US)

**Inventor(s) :**

(A1) HAMBLIN DAVID S (US); HARDY MICHAEL J (US); HERGOTT STEVEN P (US)

**Application Nbr :**

US16093102 20020531 [2002US-0160931]

**Priority Details :**

US16093102 20020531 [2002US-0160931]

**Intl Patent Class :**

(A1) A22C-011/00

**EPO ECLA Class :**

A22C-011/02B

**US Patent Class :**

ORIGINAL (O) : 452033000

**Document Type :**

Corresponding document

**Citations :**

Cited; US2568491; US3404430; US3826852; USRE30390; US4525895; US4649602;  
US4768261; US6066036; Cited; US-997547; US3805329; US3952370;  
US4112546; US4202075; US4683617; US6139416; DE1136604; DE4232759;  
FR2780246

**Publication Stage :**

(A1) Utility Patent Application published on or after January 2, 2001

**Publication Stage 2 :**

(B2) U.S. Patent (with pre-grant pub.) after Jan. 2, 2001

**Abstract :**

A method and structure of stuffing natural casings with sausage material involves taking a plurality of natural casings of different lengths and diameters; pre-loading each of the casings on elongated hollow open ended sleeves shorter than the casings and having a diameter less than the casings by telescoping the casings on the outer surfaces of the sleeves, slidably mounting the sleeves on the open end of a meat stuffing tube of a sausage encasing machine; extruding meat emulsion through the stuffing tube into the casing mounted on the sleeve until the sleeve is slidably removed from the tube, removing the sleeve from the stuffing tube, repeating the use of the sleeve by preloading the sleeve with another natural casing.

**Update Code :**

2003-50

1 / 1 LGST - @EPO

**Patent Number :**

US2003224713 A1 20031204 [US20030224713]

US6676502 B2 20040113 [US6676502]

**Application Number :**

US16093102 20020531 [2002US-0160931]

**Action Taken :**

20040713 US/RF-A

REISSUE APPLICATION FILED

EFFECTIVE DATE: 20040204



**Update Code :**  
2004-30

1 / 1 CRXX - @CLAIMS/RRX

**Patent Number :**

6,676,502 A 20040113 [US6676502]

**Patent Assignee :**

Townsend Engineering Co

**Actions :**

20040204 REISSUE REQUESTED

ISSUE DATE OF O.G.: 20040713

REISSUE REQUEST NUMBER: 10/772177

EXAMINATION GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR REISSUEPROCESS: 3643

Reissue Patent Number:

1 / 1 INPADOC - ©INPADOC

**Patent Number :**

US 6676502 BB 20040113 [US6676502]

**Title :**

Method and means for stuffing natural casings with sausage emulsion

**Inventor(s) :**

HERGOTT STEVEN P [US]; HAMBLIN DAVID S [US]; HARDY MICHAEL J [US]

**Patent Assignee (Words) :**

TOWNSEND ENGINEERING CO [US]

**Application Details :**

US 160931/02-A 20020531 [2002US-0160931]

**Priority Details :**

US 160931/02-A 20020531 [2002US-0160931]

**Intl. Patent Class. :**

A22C-011/00

**WPI Cross Reference :**

2004-033979 (C)

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**Patent Number :**

US2003224713 A1 20031204 [US20030224713]

US6676502 B2 20040113 [US6676502]

**Application Number :**

US16093102 20020531 [2002US-0160931]

**Action Taken :**

20040713 US/RF-A

REISSUE APPLICATION FILED

EFFECTIVE DATE: 20040204

**Update Code :**

2004-30

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